

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

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DRAFTED BY AF/W:JKBISHOP:RCB

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R 191930Z NOV 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 227863

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO LONDON FROM ACCRA
16 NOV 73:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 6969

AF/W FOR BISHOP

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID EFIN PFOR IBRD GH

SUBJ: GHANA DEBT MEETING

REF: ACCRA 6957

1. PLEASE PASS TEXT PARA 2 BELOW URGENTLY TO ROGER CHAUFOURNIER,
VICE PRESIDENT, IBRD, WASHINGTON, D.C. ON BEHALF OF REITTER,
LOCAL IBRD REP.

2. BEGIN TEXT: LATEST INDICATIONS ARE THAT DECEMBER 10 OR 11 IS
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BEING ENVISAGED AS STARTING DATE OF DEBT MEETING BY GHANAIAI SIDE.

I UNDERSTAND FROM ASANTE, ASHIABOR, NIKOI, ETC. THAT THIS IS THE MOST SUITABLE DATE AND WILL BE RECOMMENDED TO NRC FOR APPROVAL. NOVEMBER 26 IS CONSIDERED TOO EARLY TO ALLOW FOR ADEQUATE PREPARATIONS. DURING WEEK OF DECEMBER 3 AT LEAST TWO KEY OFFICIALS, ONE BEING ASANTE, WILL BE ABSENT. THE COMMITTEE HAS COMPLETED DRAFT POSITION AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON TERMS OF REFERENCE AND NEGOTIATING STRATEGY AND OBJECTIVES. A FINAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY AND THE NRC IS TO CONSIDER THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION AND APPROVE A REPLY TO THE CREDITORS ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21. IN VIEW OF THE SHORT TIME, ASANTE SPECIFICALLY ASKED ME TO CONVEY TO YOU THE COMMITTEE'S POSITION ON THE DECEMBER 10 OR 11 DATE SO THAT CREDITORS CAN BE ALERTED. A FORMAL GOVERNMENT REPLY IS LIKELY TO BE COMMUNICATED BY NOVEMBER 22 OR 23. I UNDERSTAND FROM UK HIGH COMMISSIONER THAT LE QUESNE WILL ATTEND KENYA'S INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS DECEMBER 12 SO THAT DATE PROPOSED BY GHANAIS MAY NOT BE SUITABLE TO UK. IF THIS WERE TO MAKE MEETING IMPOSSIBLE IT WOULD BE MOST IMPORTANT IN MY VIEW TO INFORM THE GHANAIS BEFORE THE NRC CONSIDERS MATTER NEXT WEDNESDAY, AND IT WOULD BE EQUALLY HELPFUL IF AN ALTERNATIVE DATE WOULD BE PROPOSED. FOR PRACTICAL PURPOSES SUCH A DATE WOULD HAVE TO BE AFTER JANUARY 13. IT IS MY FIRM IMPRESSION THAT THE DECEMBER 10 DATE TO BE PROPOSED IS IN NO WAY A DELAYING TACTIC ON THE GHANAIAN SIDE. THERE APPEARS TO BE A GENUINE INTENTION TO MEET THE CREDITORS BEFORE YEAR END AND TO ACHIEVE REAL PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. THE FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE TAKEN BY THE UK IN ITS NOTE ON THE QUESTIONNAIRE IS BEING CONSIDERED VERY ENCOURAGING AND CONSTRUCTIVE AND HAS DEFINITELY IMPROVED THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE. I AM AWAITING INSTRUCTIONS BY MONDAY AFTER YOUR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE CREDITORS. REITTER. END TEXT.

3. COMMENT. ABOVE SUPPORTS OUR PREVIOUS MESSAGE (REFTEL) WITH FAR GREATER DETAIL. IN TALKING WITH ME ABOUT SITUATION THIS MORNING, REITTER SAID THAT HIS GHANAIAN CONTACTS AMONG ECONOMIC COMMITTEE ARE ALL WORKING HARD TO DEAL SERIOUSLY WITH PROBLEM. IT SEEMS TO BOTH OF US IT IMPORTANT THAT MOMENTUM NOT RPT NOT BE LOST BY DELAY UNTIL JANUARY, WHICH NO MATTER HOW PUT WILL REENFORCE THOSE ELEMENTS IN GOG WHO ARE SUSPICIOUS OF CREDITORS AND RELUCTANT TO MOVE AHEAD TOWARD SETTLEMENT. THIS MAKES IT ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT THAT IF CREDITORS ARE GOING TO REPLY NEGATIVELY, WORD REACH ACCRA BY NOVEMBER 20 RPT 20, SINCE SOME BUT BY NO MEANS ALL

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OF THE ADVERSE IMPACT OF DELAY CAN BE LESSENED IF WORD RECEIVED BEFORE NRC MEETING OF NOVEMBER 21. HADSEL UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
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